

FROM WASHINGTON.  
LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL.  
The Report on the Conduct of the War  
GEN. McCLELLAN'S OFFICIAL REPORT.  
The Last Running of Vicksburg Batteries.  
ADMIRAL PORTER DISOBEYED AGAIN.  
Another Blander by General Ellet.  
Cavalry Skirmish Near Drainesville.  
The Rebel Scout Mosby Fatally Wounded.  
ONE CAVALRY WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune. Washington, Thursday, April 2, 1863.  
LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL.  
The Administration has not yet determined what course to pursue under the law authorizing the President to grant letters of marque and reprisal. The question has been discussed at more than one Cabinet meeting in connection with the question as to the proper means to adopt to prevent the construction and sailing of Rebel vessels from foreign ports. One policy, which is understood to be strongly urged by the Secretary of State, is to hold the privateer law as a rod in terror over England and other Governments, to be used in case the precedent of the Alabama is followed.  
Senator Sumner has protested against connecting the two questions, but the view to which he is opposed would now seem to be in the ascendant.  
THE REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.  
The proofs of this portion of the report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War which embraces the history of the Army of the Potomac, from the first movement upon Manassas, including the battle of Antietam, have been received from the printer, and copies will be distributed to the press to-morrow.  
Other portions will be issued from time to time. The synopsis of the evidence thus given will be followed by a summary view of the present military situation, in which it is understood the Committee express the opinion that had the Army of the Potomac did as well as the Western armies the war would now be much nearer its close. The conduct of foreign powers toward the United States is also freely criticised.  
GEN. McCLELLAN'S OFFICIAL REPORT.  
The impression intended to be conveyed in Gen. McClellan's official report of the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, just published, that he had but a small reserve under Porter, is positively contradicted by the testimony of Major-General, given before the Committee on the conduct of the war.  
THE MILITIA LAW APPOINTMENTS.  
The appointments under the National Enrollment Law of New-York are almost determined upon and will soon be made. Those for Pennsylvania are in the same condition. Whatever delay occurs will be the consequence of the desire of the authorities to make selections from among the several candidates.  
It is probable that about half the appointees in each of these States will be officers who are disabled from service in the field, but are capable of doing Provost-Marshal duty. A few will be drawn from their regiments.  
MOVEMENTS OF GEN. JOHNSON.  
Gen. Johnson will leave for Tennessee next week, to carry out the plans decided upon for active operations in the State.  
DISOBEYANCE OF ADMIRAL PORTER'S ORDERS.  
Re-Admiral Porter telegraphs to the Navy Department that the rams Lancaster and Switzer, which would not have been allowed to go down the Mississippi had he been on the spot to see that his orders were obeyed. He adds that the rams were totally unprepared for the voyage, and that it was madness to attempt to pass the batteries in broad daylight. These rams were not transferred with the gunboats on the Western rivers to the Navy Department, but still belong to the War Department, and are under the command of Gen. Ellet. This officer, although he reports to Admiral Porter, and is, technically, under his orders, appears to consider himself an independent power by virtue of having a quasi-independent command.  
CAPT. MOSBY REPORTED WOUNDED.  
We learn that Capt. Mosby, the captain of Gen. Beauregard's command, the Rebels in the skirmish near Drainesville on Wednesday morning, and was dangerously if not fatally wounded. Capt. Flint was commanded the Union cavalry was killed and other officers wounded.  
THE COLLECTION OF REBEL ABANDONED PROPERTY.  
The Secretary of the Treasury has nearly completed his regulations with regard to the collection of abandoned property in the Rebel district. The policy which they embody will, it is said, be announced in a proclamation which is soon to be issued.  
JUDGE IN EASTERN VIRGINIA.  
The Hon. John C. Underwood, at present the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, has, at the instance of Secretary Chase, been appointed U. S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, comprising that portion of the State which lies east of the Blue Ridge. The court has heretofore been held at Richmond and Norfolk. At the latter place Judge Underwood will organize his court on the 1st of June. There is political justice in sending Judge Underwood to try traitors in Virginia, which excited him in consequence of the decided Anti-Slavery opinions which he has held for the last 15 years.  
EXAMINATION OF PAYMASTERS.  
The Board composed of Majors Dodge, Taylor and Hooper, organized for the purpose of examining army paymasters, and dismissing the disqualified, is hard at work and has reported in several cases. Similar Boards will be organized in the Military Department of the Missouri and of the Ohio, to sit at Cincinnati and St. Louis.  
CAVALRY SKIRMISH.  
A skirmish occurred yesterday morning near Drainesville between 150 of the 1st Vermont Cavalry, under Col. Parsons, and about the same force of Rebels. The Union cavalry were defeated, and a number of men were wounded and several taken prisoners.

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Thirteen guns and 39 colors, more than 15,000 stand of small arms, and more than 6,000 prisoners, were the trophies which attest the success of our arms. Rendering thanks to Divine Providence for its blessing upon our exertions, I close this brief report. I beg only to add the hope that the army's efforts for the cause in which we are engaged will be deemed worthy to receive the commendation of the Government and the country.

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In the course of his narrative he says, on the 13th he received a verbal message from Col. Miles informing him of the condition of affairs. The messenger stated that there was no apparent reason for the abandonment of Maryland Heights, and though Col. Miles asked for assistance he said he could hold out certainly two days. He directed the messenger to make his way back, if possible, with the information that he was rapidly approaching and would undoubtedly relieve the place. He states, on the 14th he was directed to assume command of the garrison at Harper's Ferry, but this order reached him after all communication with the garrison had been cut off, and he adds:  
Before I left Washington, and while it was yet time, I recommended to the proper authorities that the garrison of Harper's Ferry should be withdrawn via Hagerstown, to aid in covering the Cumberland Valley, or the taking up of the pontoon bridge and obstructing the railroad bridge, it should fall back to the Maryland Heights and there hold its own to the last.  
In this position it could have maintained itself for weeks. It was not deemed proper to adopt either of these suggestions; and, when the subject was left to my discretion, it was too late to do anything, except to try to relieve the garrison. I directed the artillery to be frequently fired by our advanced guards as a signal to the garrison that relief was at hand. This was done, and I learn that our firing was distinctly heard at Harper's Ferry, and that they were thus made aware that we were approaching rapidly. It was confidently expected that this place could hold out until we had carried the mountains, and were in a position to make a detachment for their relief, etc.  
He concludes as follows: While it gives me pleasure to speak of the gallantry and devotion of the officers and men generally displayed through this conflict, I feel it necessary to mention that some of the officers and men straggled from their places until the battle was over. Death on the spot must have been the fate of all such cowards, and the heads of the military commanders must be strengthened with all the power of the Government to inflict it. The easy and disgraceful surrender of Harper's Ferry deprived my operations of results which would have formed a brilliant sequel to the substantial and gratifying success already related.  
I had the garrison held out 38 hours longer. I should in all probability have captured that part of the enemy's force engaged in the attack on Maryland Heights, while the whole garrison—some 12,000 strong—could have been drawn to re-enforce me on the day of the decisive battle. Certainly, on the morning of the 18th, I would thus have been in a position to have destroyed the Rebel Army.  
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Rebels were arrested, on the 22d, while attempting to pass the lines at Donaldsonville. A large quantity of goods had been sent to the Rebels in a similar manner, and the business is now being broken up.  
A soldier of the 22d Kentucky Infantry gives an account of how some of our men, after being taken prisoners at Vicksburg during the last attack upon our batteries, were killed by being fired upon by our batteries.  
The *Ev.*, in giving an account of the burning of the *Bio Bio*, says:  
There was scarcely any of the baggage saved, and none of the cargo. She had arrived the previous night at 11 o'clock, but the passengers were not permitted to take anything ashore, and the fire broke out so early in the morning, and spread so rapidly, that it was impossible to save much. A few passengers, we believe, were fortunate enough to save their trunks, but the majority of them lost all they had on board. She had a valuable cargo of goods from New-York and Havana—from the latter point consisting principally in valuable cigars, consigned to many persons engaged in that trade.  
The only one on board who was injured, so far as we have been able to learn, was the Purser, who, on the first alarm, rushed to the office to save the money, books, and papers. The flames burst through a door into his face, enveloping the office and burning him badly in the neck, but he had succeeded in opening the safe and secured the articles he brought off with him. The mail, which was a very large one, was taken off early in the morning, before there was any thought of fire, and was, consequently, all saved.  
Among the Rebel Signal Corps, whose capture was noted by the last arrival, was a Capt. Youngblood. He gives the following account of his capture:  
The Captain spoke very freely of his capture, and several times repeated that it was a very pretty "gobble." He seemed to think that we exercised more than our usual caution, and said he was never more surprised in his life than when he found himself a prisoner. It seems that Gen. Garfield had learned that we were about to land some force on that side of the river. Desiring to have accurate information of all our movements, he chose picked men for signal duty. Youngblood was known as a cautious but persistent soldier, and the work was given to him. He landed on the western side of the river about dusk, or about the time our force disembarked on the winter plantation. He knew that our first work would be to throw out pickets, and as he exercised unusual caution in placing his own pickets. It was very dark that night, and for fear of mistake he marched his pickets along behind a fence by the road, and after having cautioned them to be on the alert, and to give the signal at the first alarm, he set out to return. Not dreaming of the possibility of danger, he took the road, and was walking leisurely along, when he heard a gruff voice cry out:  
"Halt! Who goes there?"  
Suplicating it to be one of his own pickets, he instantly replied:  
"I am a friend with the counterpane."  
The order being given to advance, he went forward, and when close enough discovered in front of him a Union soldier coolly pointing a pistol at his head.  
Of course, resistance was vain. The game was up. It was a fair "gobble," and the less said about it the better. The captor, anxious to secure all, marched the Captain back to where the pickets were stationed. In order to attract their attention the prisoner kept saying in a loud tone, "Well, I know I should be taken; it is just what I expected," and so forth, saying that the pickets would bear him and escape. That fortune was not favorable. They were all taken, and are by this time within their cages, signal the Rebels again for good or bad.  
The *Ev.* says: A letter has been received from Lieut. Philip Fantasy of the Marine Corps of the steamship *Mississippi*, captured in the attempt to pass the Rebel batteries on the night of the 14th. He writes that arrangements have been agreed to for his immediate exchange for the Rebel Captain Youngblood.

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